

BIG BRITISH SPRING DRIVE STARTS

LATEST
EXTRA

The



World.

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AUSTRIA CUTS OFF RELATIONS; \$6,500,000,000 AS WAR FUND

BRITISH SMASH GERMANS; GREAT SPRING DRIVE ON

Haig's Troops Pierce Lines at Many Points and Take a Lot of Prisoners—British Claim Victory in Terrific Air Battles.

LONDON, April 9.—The British early this morning attacked the German lines on a wide front, from a point south of Arras to the south of Lens, thus opening what is believed here to be a general spring offensive.

The move has been looked forward to eagerly for some days. The offensive of the British Flying Corps in the latter part of last week, the attack on Zeebrugge Saturday night and the activity of the French in Belgium, as shown in yesterday's official communication from Paris, were considered a prelude to important military operations.

The British Commander, Gen. Haig, whose reports are always modest, says the German line has been penetrated everywhere and that satisfactory progress was made in the direction of Cambrai and St. Quentin, two important positions in connection with the new German line.

The extension of the attack northward to Lens doubtless was intended to give the British more elbow room for their operations from Arras to the point of juncture with the French around St. Quentin.

In the direction of St. Quentin the British took Fresnoy le Petit and advanced their line southeast of Le Verguier. No estimate of the number of Germans captured can yet be given, the statement says, but the number is considerable.

The statement is as follows: "We attacked at 5:30 o'clock this morning on a wide front south of Arras to south of Lens. Our troops have everywhere penetrated the enemy's lines and are making satisfactory progress at all points.

"In the direction of Cambrai we stormed the villages of Hermies and Bouris and have penetrated into Havrincourt Wood.

"In the direction of St. Quentin we captured Fresnoy le Petit and advanced our line southeast of Le Verguier.

"No estimate of the prisoners can yet be given, but considerable numbers are reported captured."

GREAT AERIAL BATTLE REACHES CLIMAX NEVER DREAMED OF IN WAR

WITH THE BRITISH ARMIES AFIELD, April 9.—The British have inaugurated aerial warfare on a scale hitherto undreamed of even in this greatest of wars.

German claims that the British have lost their air supremacy spurred a certain English air general to reply to-day:

"If the English losses appear high," he explained, "it is because the present fighting is on an undreamed of scale. The German boast of numerous planes downed is therefore easily explained. We are fighting practically always above the enemy's country; therefore a vast majority of all our casualties are behind their lines.

"While we frankly admit the number of our machines which are missing, the Germans say none of theirs is missing. This is probably true.

(Continued on Fourth Page.)

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MOTHER TO YIELD BOY TO THOSE WHO MADE HIM HAPPY

Mrs. Patsonk Finds Little Joseph, Long Lost, Is Stranger in Her Home.

Little Joseph Patsonk, who became rich little George Bernard Shire and then far from rich little Joseph Patsonk again, is expected to again exchange his humble home at No. 598 Union Avenue, the Bronx, for the marble baths and tapestry hangings of No. 41 West Eighty-second Street.

His really-truly mother is willing to give him back to Mrs. Leo D. Shire, his foster-mother, who it is said is out in the country somewhere with her heart almost broken because her conviction of what was right made her turn the boy over to his newly-discovered parents.

"It's no use," sighed Mrs. Patsonk. "George can never be one of us. We are too poor. He has known what money means, and all it brings. Mrs. Shire can have him. It just breaks our hearts, but it seems to be the wisest thing. I am a real mother, and I'm letting him go because it will mean more happiness for him. All I hope is that they will let us see him once in a while."

The Shires will learn to-day of Mrs. Patsonk's fearful decision. When Joseph, or George, was a few months old his mother, unable to care for him, left him at a day nursery, giving a fictitious name and address. Eventually the child was taken by Mr. and Mrs. Shire, who came to love him as their own. After things mended for the Patsonks, the mother tried to find her boy, but could get no trace of him. Finally, she heard of him by accident, identified him, and prepared to fight for his possession by law, but Mrs. Shire said there would be no fight. She loved him, she argued, but his own mother must love him even more.

So Joseph George went to Union Avenue with all his dainty clothes and all his costly toys. That was two weeks ago.

"He never would call me mamma or his father papa," said Mrs. Patsonk, wiping away the tears. "Every morning he wakes up calling for morning he doesn't mean us. Then he always says please and thank you, and his brother Willie calls him a daisy. I know Mrs. Shire has stayed away because she has a mother's heart too. It's just breaking, but she wants the boy to love me, and he can't. I gave him birth, but Mrs. Shire is his mother."

More than two hundred letters have been received by the Patsonks urging them to let Mrs. Shire keep the boy. "Of course," added Mrs. Patsonk, "I mean Mrs. Shire can adopt him legally. I want him to be happy, that's all."

23D READY TO MOVE.

Two Battalions Expect to Start Some Time To-Day.

Col. Frank H. Norton of the Twenty-third New York Infantry received orders to-day at the army in Brooklyn to be ready to move the first and second battalions under Major David B. Blanton and Major D. Addison to-morrow morning. They will entrain for duty at points en route.

KAISER'S PLEDGE NOT ENOUGH FOR GERMAN LIBERALS

No Full Satisfaction for Those Seeking Greater Share in Government.

"REFORM IMPERATIVE."

Disappointment Over the Delay in Putting Proposal Into Effect.

BERLIN (Via London), April 9.—Formal pledge by the Kaiser for political reform was generally hailed with rejoicing in editorial comment to-day. But a number of the more liberal newspapers indicated clearly the pledges were not enough to satisfy those seeking greater participation by the people in government.

"While the promise will please the Socialists, they will take into account only deeds," declared the Socialist organ, Vorwarts.

"The Emperor promises only a secret general vote, so the fight for equal votes must continue," insisted the Vossische Zeitung.

The Tagesschau, on the other hand, declared: "Thus, in a few strokes of the pen, have been created what years of agitation and conferences have heretofore failed to achieve."

"Thanks to the Emperor's intervention," said the Lokal Anzeiger, "an unpleasant internal dispute has been settled. His address will produce a good effect abroad, as showing that there can be no outside interference, and that the German people continue to stand behind the Emperor and Field Marshal Hindenburg."

"We wished for an immediate start in fulfilling the Chancellor's promise, but the value of the Emperor's proposal is not small," declared the Tageblatt. "Franchise reform is only one of numerous reforms which Germany needs."

THE HAGUE, April 9 (via London).—In his comment on the Easter message of Emperor William, Theodor Wolff, in the Berlin Tageblatt, says that President Wilson in his message pointed out that America was not hostile to the German people, but only to the Prussian autocracy and to non-responsible government, which was the natural enemy of freedom.

"The President drew a line separating democracy from the Imperial Government," says the writer, "and gave the German people a hint to do likewise. It is necessary to answer that the German people must remain the masters of their own house."

"Secret, direct suffrage is now projected," continued Herr Wolff, "but whether equal or some form of plural voting is contemplated, the message does not say. For the parties of the Left only equal suffrage can be acceptable since any plural system which again favored the propertied or so-called educated classes would cause new inequalities and provoke fresh strife."

"What will the Government do if, after the war, there should again be no majority for an electoral system consistent with the just demands of the people? In view of this danger the parties of the Left have suggested that the new scheme be entrusted to the Reichstag, but this the King's message does not contemplate."

GERMAN PLEDGE ON RELIEF SHIPS MEANS NOTHING

Seven With Guarantees From Berlin Sunk Unwarned and Outside the Barred Zone.

LONDON, April 9.—The loss of the Norwegian steamship Chamilla, the sinking of which without warning was announced on Saturday, brings up to four the number of Belgian relief ships torpedoed within four days. The ships were carrying a total of 17,000 tons of foodstuffs. The number of relief ships torpedoed since Feb. 1 is seven. In addition to these three were fired on and escaped.

All the relief ships which were sunk were torpedoed without warning in broad daylight. They bore the full markings of the American Commission for Relief in Belgium and had safe conduct passes issued by the Swiss Minister in Washington on behalf of the German Government.

All the ships were outside the war zone, on a line guaranteed by the German authorities to be safe for the commission's vessels.

UNCLE SAM SEIZES THREE BIG AUSTRIAN SHIPS IN THIS PORT

Liner Martha Washington and Two Freighters Taken Over—No Resistance Made.

Collector of the Port Malone this afternoon seized the big passenger steamship Martha Washington and the freighters Dora and Ida, the only vessels of the Austrian Government in New York waters over which he has jurisdiction. Another Austrian freighter, the Himalaya, tied up in Newark Bay since the beginning of the war, was seized by United States officers.

Not a single argument attended the taking of the ships by Collector Malone, the officers and men of the vessels, after they recovered from their surprise, immediately packing up their effects preparatory to being transferred to Ellis Island. So far as a cursory examination shows, none of the vessels has been damaged.

Orders to take over the ships came from Washington about noon. Collector Malone, accompanied by his secretary and Lieutenant Commander Earl P. Joseph, U. S. N., hurried to the Martha Washington, anchored at Stapleton, N. J., in his launch Neutrality. The Martha Washington, owned by the Austro-American Line Steamship Company, is one of the largest passenger ships afloat.

Capt. Robert Stuparich was not on board when the Collector arrived, so the latter sought out Chief Officer Victor Kandia, who was at luncheon with the captain's two children, Bertha, aged twelve, and Joris, three and one-half years. The three were huddled about an oil stove trying to keep warm.

"I am very sorry, but I am here to take possession of this boat by order of the United States Government," said Collector Malone. The Chief Officer looked astonished.

AUSTRIA BREAKS WITH U. S.; ENVOY ASKS PASSPORTS

State Department Also Gets Notice of Action From Minister at Berne.

SPAIN TO ACT FOR U. S. Severance of Relations Regarded as Prelude to "State of War" Declaration.

WASHINGTON, April 9.—Austria-Hungary, under the pressure of Germany, has severed diplomatic relations with the United States.

Baron Erick Zwiadinek, Charge d'Affaires of the Austro-Hungarian Embassy here, called at the State Department to-day and asked for passports for himself and the embassy staff. Almost at the same time a despatch from American Minister Stoval at Berne said the Dual Monarchy had broken off diplomatic relations with the United States in Vienna yesterday. It is presumed this was done by handing passports to American Charge Grew. Ambassador Penfield, who had left Vienna on Saturday, probably did not know of the government's action.

By prearrangement, Spain will take over the diplomatic and consular interests of the United States in Austria-Hungary. All Austrian Consular agents will depart from the United States with the diplomatic mission as was the case with Germany.

Up to the time Charge Zwiadinek asked for his passports no similar action had been taken by Bulgaria and Turkey—Germany's two other allies—and their representatives here disclaimed having any knowledge of the intention of their Governments. It is expected here they will follow by breaking diplomatic relations.

Austria's break with the United States undoubtedly is the prelude to a declaration of a state of war.

The United States, by the break in relations, is released of the care of probably 2,000,000 war prisoners. In Russia alone it is estimated that 1,250,000 Austrian prisoners were under American protection, with a considerable number in France also. In Austria the United States had cared for all the Italian and Roumanian prisoners. Other small groups are thought to bring the total well up to 2,000,000.

KAISER PLANNED TO USE DANISH WEST INDIES

Expected to Establish Zeppelin and Submarine Base There, Says Copenhagen.

COPENHAGEN, April 9.—The United States' main purpose in purchasing the Danish West Indies from Denmark was to defeat known German plans to establish a Zeppelin and submarine base there.

It was learned on the highest authority here to-day that months ago when the United States began appraising the possibilities of conflict with Germany, this scheme of the Imperial Government to seize the islands and establish a base of operations against the United States came to light.

Sunday World Wants Work

Monday Morning Wanders.

FAR REACHING POWER FOR JOINT WAR COMMITTEE DEMANDED IN CONGRESS

Administration Leaders Oppose Measure as Financial Check Rein Over the Executive—Bond Bill to Be Presented in House Thursday.

LABOR MOBILIZES ITSELF; NO STRIKES DURING WAR

By Samuel M. Williams.
(Special Staff Correspondent of The Evening World.)

WASHINGTON, April 9.—With the nation in the greatest war of history and Austria joining with Germany in plotting the destruction of America and of democracy, Congress to-day inaugurated a policy of hobbling the President and putting War and Navy Departments in the lead strings of politicians.

In both Houses there was introduced an insidious plan for a "joint committee of Congress on conduct of the war" designed to hold a financial check rein over the Executive. At the same time jealous leaders of the House, both Democrats and Republicans, broke out in revolt against voting appropriation requested by the Administration unless given more detailed information about the purposes of expenditures.

The committee would be composed of six members of the Senate, including four Democrats and two Republicans, six from the House, evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats.

The resolution provides that the committee shall be known as the Joint Committee on the Conduct of the War and "shall sit during the sessions or recesses of Congress, shall make a special duty of the problems arising out of the war, shall confer and advise with the President of the United States and the heads of the various executive departments and shall report to Congress from time to time in its own discretion or when requested to do so by either branch of Congress."

The committee would be clothed with the widest powers of investigation, compelling testimony under oath.

Senator Weeks of Massachusetts introduced the joint committee resolution in the Upper House, and Representative Madden of Illinois presented it to the Lower House. Both members are Republicans.

ADDED \$100,000,000 FOR PRESIDENT'S USE STARTS REVOLT.

The revolt in the House on money matters was started by Representative Fitzgerald, Democrat, Chairman of the Appropriation Committee, when there was reported the general deficiency bill, already passed coming back from the Senate with an added appropriation of one hundred millions for the President to use as he deemed necessary. Against this Fitzgerald, backed by Republican Leader Mann, protested as inaugurating a policy of voting blindly large sums of money that the House could not approve.

"I am for giving every dollar necessary for prosecuting the war," he said, "but we must not act blindly and substitute some one else's judgment for our own. It is folly to begin a war to maintain our rights by destroying our fiscal system. Congress is entitled to detailed information of how the huge sums demanded are to be applied."

Republican Leader Mann read the brief text of estimates submitted to the House last week by the Secretary of the Treasury, calling for three billions of dollars to be made available immediately for national defense, and said:

"The Department ought to submit estimates more in detail than this. Congress is entitled to know something about how this money is to be expended."

GRAVE MISTAKE TO GIVE DE-

TAILED, HE SAYS.

Representative Sherley of Kentucky, defending the Administration said: "In time of war we have got to give a leeway to the Executive. It would be a grave mistake to specify all details of appropriations for military purposes. It would be fatal to restrict the President and the administrative departments in money matters the way we do in normal times. I have no doubt but that many details of these estimates will be laid before the committees of Congress."

Not content with holding the purse strings in voting money to the Government, members of the House continued their clamor for continuing that control over the expenditures afterward. That is the principal object for a joint committee on conduct of the war, J. Hampton Moore, Republican of Pennsylvania, and Martin W. Little Page, Democrat of West Virginia, made speeches endorsing the plan.

The House Committee on Ways and Means met in executive session at 10 o'clock this morning to formulate legislation to finance the war.

A decision to introduce the \$5,000,000,000 bond issue measure on Thursday in the House was reached by